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BRING IT IN, TAKE IT OUT…

YOUTH PATRONS, FAMILIES CLEAN UP NEW BUFFALO'S BEACH

— PAGE 3 —

PHOTO OF THE CLEAN UP CREW BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

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Elana Sitrin (left) directs the clean up crew

Cleaning up trash along the New Buffalo coastline

Elana Sitrin (right) assists the clean up crew

Grace Summers and Phoebe Zalawski watch as Elana Sitrin measures their trash

Ryder Russell watches as his trash is weighed by Elana Sitrin

Youth patrons, families clean up New Buffalo's beach

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

In honor of International Coastal Cleanup Day, area youth and their families decided to pay respect to the coastline here in New Buffalo.

Buckets in hand, members of a clean-up crew picked up 55 pounds of trash at New Buffalo Public Beach for New Buffalo Township Library's Youth and Family New Buffalo Beach Clean-up Day Saturday, Sept. 21.

Elana Sitrin, who works in the library's youth services, said that the clean-up was being held with the support of the Alliance for the Great Lakes.

"The Alliance for the Great Lakes has a different cleanup day also in the spring but we wanted ours to be in the fall at the beginning of the school year," she said.

High school students could use the day as a way to earn community service hours, which is a requirement for graduation. Meanwhile, middle school students could put their community service hours as credits toward their trip to Washington D.C.

A former high school teacher who has taught in Los Angeles, Chicago and Georgia, Sitrin said she worked for an organization in Los Angeles that was the coordinator for Los Angeles County's coastal clean-up day.

"I thought, 'We have beaches here, this is one of our greatest assets - let's keep it clean,'" Sitrin said.

After the clean-up, everyone reconvened to weigh their trash. While most of it was thrown away in the trash bins located on the beach's parking lot, Sitrin said she wanted to take some of it back to the library to use for this week's beach trash mosaics-themed craft for the teen makerspace.

Phoebe Zalawski and Grace Summers, freshmen at New Buffalo High School, said that they were participating in the clean-up to earn community service hours for student senate, graduation and an upcoming trip to Italy.

The Italy trip, which is scheduled for next June, is part of the school's World Travel Club.

"We study cultures and the process of traveling and then we go to a different place," Summers said.

The day also served as a way to engage the library's youth patrons.

"We are really trying to establish ourselves as a community center and not just a place to check out books...We want our teens and tweens to come visit us a lot and we know that service opportunities is one of the ways to do that," Sitrin said.

Sitrin said she works with Kristy Good, the library's youth services coordinator, with an emphasis on teens.

From 3:30-5:30 p.m. every Thursday, tweens ages 8-12 are invited to create a craft in the makerspace in the library's youth department downstairs. From 5:30-7:30 p.m. teens can have their time to create.

Next month, the library will be celebrating "Teentober," with a bevy of Halloween themed activities: a trick or treat bingo card that the younger patrons can fill out throughout the month on what they've read or done, which can be brought to the library for a treat; a Halloween themed makerspace, with spooky art and a bonfire, which will be held at New Buffalo Township Park Oct. 22.

"They (the teens) can have their private conversations but it's a safe place and they don't have to spend their money - we want more of them to know they can use the library," Sitrin said.

For upcoming library events, visit newbuffalotownshiplibrary.org or follow NBTL on Facebook.

The profession of wisdom is action. — *Dino N. Fatouros*

Local Government Meetings

New Buffalo Times

Democracy Requires Transparency

CITY OF NEW BUFFALO
JOHN HUMPHREY, MAYOR
CITY COUNCIL
MARK ROBERTSON, ROGER LIJEWSKI, JOHN HUMPHREY, BRIAN FLANAGAN, VANCE PRICE
City Council meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30PM
CITY OF NEW BUFFALO PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 5:30PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP BOARD
PETE RAHM, MICHELLE HEIT, MICHELLE HANNON, PATTY IAZZETTO, JACK ROGERS
Board meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 4PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM
SHERIFF BERRIEN COUNTY
Sheriff, Chuck Heit
Undersheriff, Greg Sanders
NEW BUFFALO AREA RECREATIONAL AUTHORITY
Meets at 10AM on the 2nd Wednesday of every other month (odd) at New Buffalo Township Hall, 17425 Red Arrow Highway New Buffalo
NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS BOARD
LISA WERNER, JOHN HASKINS, DENISE CHURCHILL, BRADLEY BURNER, VANESSA THUN, STEPHEN DONNELLY, GREG VOSBERG
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD
DAVID BUNTE, PAULA DUDIAK, LIZ RETTIG, RICHARD SULLIVAN, BILL MARSKE
Chikaming Board meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30PM
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30PM
THREE OAKS
THREE OAKS TOWNSHIP BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7PM

VILLAGE OF THREE OAKS BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7PM
GRAND BEACH
Meets on the 3rd Wednesday October thru March at 5PM EST
KIMBERLY WOLNIK, CLERK-TREASURER
HARRY WALDER BLAKE O'HALLORAN, JAMES BRACEWELL, PETER DOERR, EDWARD BRANDES
MICHIANA
VILLAGE OF MICHIANA COUNCIL
Meets on the 2nd Friday of each month at 1PM

Berrien County Health Department spotlights Clinic Services

DURING SEXUAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

The Berrien County Health Department is shining a spotlight on its comprehensive Sexual Health Clinic services as part of Sexual Health Awareness Month.

Over the past five years, cases of sexually transmitted infections – particularly chlamydia, syphilis and gonorrhea – have increased in Berrien County. Regular examinations and testing are the most effective ways to prevent the spread of infection and identify health concerns early on.

BCHD's Sexual Health Clinic offers accessible, nonjudgmental and supportive services to all community members through in-person and telehealth appointments. It provides a wide variety of services that help prevent and treat sexually transmitted infections and promote overall health.

Services through the clinic include:

- Wellness exams, including clinical breast, pelvic and testicular exams and pap tests.
- Immunizations, including for human papillomavirus.
- Sexually transmitted infection testing and treatment.
- Rapid HIV testing and counseling.
- Pregnancy testing and counseling.
- Birth control.

These services are offered at lower rates than other local health care organizations, and most types of insurance are accepted.

"By offering low-cost comprehensive sexual health services – from wellness exams to infection screenings – the Berrien County Health Department is staying true to our mission of making essential health services more accessible to our community," Clinical and Community Services Supervisor Dionne Rigozzi said. "No matter your relationship status, it is important to get routine care.

"We also encourage sexually active community members to make an appointment for routine wellness exams, immunizations and testing. If you suspect you have an STI, have been with a partner who has an STI or have or will soon have a new partner, we strongly encourage you to get tested."

Clinic appointments are available 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Health Department's Benton Harbor office, 2149 E. Napier Ave., and Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at its Niles office, 1205 N. Front St.

Walk-in services are available at both locations 1-4 p.m. Wednesdays, and telehealth appointments are available 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

For more information on BCHD's Sexual Health Clinic, visit www.bchdsexualhealthclinic.com, or call 269-926-7121. — STAFF REPORTS

My film is not a movie; it's not about Vietnam. It is Vietnam. *— Francis Ford Coppola*

BUD PRINCE AND PRINCESS, MISS JUNIOR TEEN AND TEEN BLOSSOMTIME INFORMATIONAL MEETING ON TAP

Children between the ages of 6 years old as of Nov. 3, 2024, and not more than 9 years old by that same date, who would like to participate in the Blossomtime Festival's Bud Prince and Princess Pageant can attend an informational meeting at Power-In-Motion at 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 13.

Young ladies between the ages of 10 and 12 years old by November 3rd, are eligible to compete for the title of Miss Junior Teen Blossomtime and ladies between the ages of 13 and 15 years old by Nov. 3 are eligible to compete for the title of Miss Teen Blossomtime and are also invited to the information meeting that same afternoon.

For further information, call the Blossomtime Office at 269-982-8016 or email questions to office@blossomtimefestival.org. Applications are available by emailing the Blossomtime Office at office@blossomtimefestival.org and must be completed and submitted no later than Oct. 13, 2024.

Power-In-Motion is located at 3990 M-139 in St Joseph.

— STAFF REPORTS

Village Council gives preliminary approval of 'Haven' site plan

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Upon recommendation from the Planning Commission, members of the Grand Beach Village Council approved the preliminary site plan for "The Haven," with conditions, at their Wednesday, Sept. 18, meeting.

Per a statement on the village's website from Ross Kerr, planning commission chair, the piece of property formerly known as "10 Acres" that's located along the 4th hole of the golf course is being developed by the Kelly family.

"The Haven" has received preliminary approval from the Planning Commission, Grand Beach's legal counsel and the building inspector, the statement said.

Andrew Kelly said that they are proposing a "site condominium," which is "just a formal way of dividing the land of the 10 acres that are abutting the 15 acres on Ana Livia."

"We plan to divide it into eight single family parcels, three of which my own family will build on and five of which we plan to bring to market," he said.

He said the development is part of the medium density zone in Grand Beach and, since it's a site condominium, it will "follow all the ordinances that go with medium density zoning."

The site plan was approved with the following conditions: A grading permit may be issued for grading and foundation work only; any provisions deemed necessary by the building inspector or county for control of possible erosion; signed waiver relieving the Village of any liability if final plan is not approved; furnishing of a bond or other financial guarantee for restoration of the site, if work does not proceed and compliance with all requirements of the Michigan "Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Act", Michigan Public Act 347 of 1972, MCL 282.101 et seq.."

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Council president Harry Walder said that the Kellys will resubmit the site plan with regards to reviewing the configuration of the Haven's access road, as council members said they felt it was too close to the tracks and Grand Beach Road.

Councilmember Blake O'Halloran said he was concerned about another road going into Grand Beach Road. He added that there seems to be "a lot of area in the front that you could do a road and connect to 15 Acres."

"I know it's only eight homes but I think it's going to be really tough for you guys as well - trying to get out of there when everything else is going on (when) it's a busy time of year," he said.

O'Halloran added that he'd like to see if, instead of that road coming right into Grand Beach Road right between the entrance of U.S. 12 and the gate, they could "bend it around and come down" so that it met up with 15 Acres.

Walder presented councilmembers with the latest draft of the petition regarding a request for MDOT to authorize the construction of traffic signals at the intersection of U.S. 12 and Grand Beach Road over the Amtrak railroad tracks to Grand Beach as well as to provide a separate cycle/pedestrian crossing at the tracks due to the future Marquette Greenway, along with a potential list of recipients.

Council members continued the discussion of how to fund future projects.

Per the agenda, major future projects include the following: 1) New irrigation system for the Golf Course, with an approximate cost of $350,000. 2) Additional and ongoing road repairs, with an approximate cost over the next three years of $1,000,000. 3) Beach nourishment. 4) New police station, with a cost over the next three years of approximately $700,000.

Walder reiterated that he believes current taxes cannot fund these projects and options include a millage increase, a special assessment or donations.

Peter Doerr said that, from his time in the village, he doesn't see a millage passing. He said people have been more receptive for a special assessment, which would have to be "earmarked for a certain thing," because they "recognize the need."

James Bracewell said that he believed in "the old fashioned way - within your means." He requested that village clerk/treasurer Kimberly Wolnik give him a report that would show the increase in tax revenue that has come into the village over the last four to five years.

"Yes, you can always spend more money but you can also budget money - do a project a year or one project, spread it over two years and so on," he said.

Walder said that the village has approximately 2.9 miles of roads and $513,000 is being spent to pave 39 percent of them.

"So if we kick that can down the road, those other poor roads are going to become decrepit," he said.

Walder said he'd put together a survey, which would come before the council, for residents for their input on funding.

Councilmembers approved police chief Ryan Layman seeking a replacement for Flick, who will be retiring as assistant chief at the end of the year. Flick will be serving on a part-time basis to cover Layman's days off.

Walder asked council members to review a document, which shows village-owned property that has no value to the village and might have value to residents.

On the Golfmoore Estates page in a document he showed council members, he pointed out an area near Wildwood Avenue that was platted as a road but is a dune. Walder said the property makes no revenue off it and the village will "never build a road there." He asked council members to consider selling pieces of that village-owned property to the owners on both sides.

Councilmembers approved a request from Dune Restoration to allow Pine Street Access for the installation of a staircase. Since large equipment will be used to bring in a stainless steel structure, a daily charge will be made to the village.

Councilmembers approved the following newly appointed members of the Nature Preserve Task Force: Lynn Scherrer, Nanay Wendling, Michelle Buziak and Mark Bertane.

SCHOLASTICS

New Buffalo test scores rank high in Michigan

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Recent test scores at New Buffalo Area Schools have received statewide as well as countywide attention.

Per data that was released by the Michigan Department of Education, New Buffalo Area Schools Superintendent Adam Bowen said at the Monday, Sept. 23, New Buffalo Area Schools Board of Education meeting that the district's spring MSTEP scores ranked high in the state.

Overall, third grade math and ELA scores at New Buffalo both ranked second in the state.

Fourth grade ELA scores, as well as math scores, ranked eighth overall.

Fifth grade ELA ranked 31st, math ranked fourth, science ranked 29th and social studies ranked 42nd overall.

Sixth grade ELA scores ranked fourth and math scores ranked 19th. For seventh grade, ELA scores ranked fourth and math ranked 15th.

Eighth grade science scores came in at 11th and social studies was ranked fifth.

Eleventh grade ranked 34th in science and 51st in social studies.

"Some pretty impressive scores, when you think about it in the context of the whole state of Michigan," Bowen said.

Board president Lisa Werner said that comparing New Buffalo's size to the other districts that had high rankings made it more impressive.

"A lot of the other schools are so much larger than we are, when you looked at the numbers of how many students they have in their district compared to us," she said.

Board members approved the submission of a grant request to the Frederich S. Upton Foundation in the amount of $13,500.

The grant will be submitted through the Berrien Community Foundation.

Dr. Michael Lindley, mentor/coach/board consultant, said that the grant will go toward hiring a specialist/botanist/ecologist to map all the vegetation and animals in both the district's 32 acres across from the elementary school and the 18 and a half acres behind the school over the course of four seasons.

Another upcoming grant in the amount of $19,000 will have the trees identified.

Lindley said both grants are "study grants," which will allow the district to apply for larger state and federal grants that could potentially allow the construction of boardwalks to "access ecosystems that aren't currently accessible, some bridges, eradication of invasive species, etc." Most of the reports would be due in January 2026. Lindley said that the county would be assisting the district in applying for larger grants.

Board president Lisa Werner said that comparing New Buffalo's size to the other districts that had high rankings made it more impressive. "A lot of the other schools are so much larger than we are, when you looked at the numbers of how many students they have in their district compared to us," she said.

Denise Churchill, who serves on the Planned Unit Development (PUD) Committee for the planned Bison Preserve across from the elementary school, said that, due to the current lack of approval for state grants, other options are being explored to "address the funding shortfall without compromising the project's target pricing or the design integrity." The committee was scheduled to meet with state Rep. Joey Andrews Tuesday to "seek his guidance" on securing state funds and grants. Ed Gausslin, one of the project's developers, of Bison Property Development is investigating "alternative building materials" and The Bradford Group, the other developer, is exploring other potential funding sources.

"We want to just state that this process requires time and patience and we remain fully committed to achieving the project's goals," Churchill said.

Board members accepted the 2023-2024 audit as presented by Kruggel, Lawton & Company, LLC.

For the fiscal year that ended June 30, local revenue was the largest source of the General Fund's revenue at 78.8 percent, or $17.3 million. State revenue was the second biggest category at 13.6 percent, or $2.9 million and federal was 6.25 percent or $1.3 million. Since the ESSER funds will be going away next year, the federal percentage will decrease and state and local will increase.

In total, revenues were $21.97 million.

Regarding expenditures, the two biggest categories were instruction, which was 46.46 percent or about $8.3 million and supporting services, which were 46.43% or about $8.3 million. Total expenses were $17.9 million.

Regarding actual and budgeted results for the year that ended June 30, the district had budgeted $21.8 million for revenue and the actual amount was $21.9 million, so it was about $129,000 over budget. The budgeted amount for expenses was $18.1 million and the actual amount was about $180,000 under budget at $17.9 million. The budgeted amount for the fund balance was $4.6 million and the actual amount was about $4.9 million, which means the district was over budget for the fund balance.

As of June 30, the district has three months of operation expenditures.

Board members authorized elementary school guidance counselor Keri Haskins to apply for a $3,000 Resiliency in the Face of Trauma Grant.

Bowen said plans are to create a sensory room, where students can calm down and relax in an "environment that's good for them to regulate." The grant will also be submitted through the Berrien Community Foundation.

I've opted for fun in this lifetime. — *Jerry Garcia*

CHESTERTON ART CENTER TO HOST 'SPOOKY POP-UP' NEXT MONTH

Chesterton Art Center is celebrating the final Chesterton Third Friday of the season with a Spooky Pop-Up event featuring the work of twelve local artists with a cash bar and light bites from 4-8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 18.

Visitors can look forward to artists showcasing their unique haunted creations, including handmade jewelry, prints, ceramics, sculpture and more. Visitors can immerse themselves in the spirit of Halloween through this delightful shopping experience and connect with artists from your community. All are welcome to come and wear their favorite festive attire.

Spooky Pop-Up participating artist Emily Blossom said that she "can't wait to be part of the Spooky Pop-Up Event at the Chesterton Art Center, adding that she's excited about sharing her art with the community and "letting her spooky creativity loose!"

"The Chesterton Art Center is always brewing up new ways to spread the love for local art," she said.

Chesterton Art Center brings vibrance and creativity to the community by hosting events that provide space to celebrate art and engage with local artists. The Spooky Pop-Up participating artists include Maureen Duffy-Daugavietis, Georgia Geis, Laurel Izard, Morgan Johnson, Jayde McAloon, Mindy Milan, Emily Blossom, Susan Brandsetter, Zoe Gladkowski, Dorothy Graden, Alice Nebelsiek-Piorkowski and artists from CAC's Teen Arts Group.

Chesterton Third Fridays offer joyful evenings throughout downtown Chesterton from May through October, bringing together local retail, dining, shopping and arts businesses. The Oct. 18 event will feature this art pop-up at CAC along with other happenings throughout town. Visitors should plan for a full evening of restaurant promotions, walking tours, live music and arts programming.

To learn more about upcoming events at the Chesterton Art Center, visit www.chestertonart.org, or call 219-926-4711.

— STAFF REPORTS

Celebration planned for Christmas movie, 'Prancer'

BY STAN MADDUX

Attempts are being made to get major Hollywood actor Sam Elliott here to celebrate the 35th anniversary of a Christmas movie filmed in La Porte and nearby Three Oaks, Michigan.

Elliott played the lead role in the movie "Prancer," which still airs during the holiday season.

John Hancock, who lives in northern La Porte County, directed the film that occupies a special place in his heart.

Hancock said he has spoken with Elliott, along with his handlers, about joining other actors in the film, who are coming for the celebration Dec. 14 and 15.

He said the first night of the celebration will be at The Acorn Center for the Performing Arts in Three Oaks and in La Porte possibly at the Civic Auditorium the following night.

Hancock said he believes the odds of Elliott coming for the occasion is better than 50 percent.

"It's not for sure yet but we're very hopeful," he said.

Elliott plays a widowed father, whose apple farm outside La Porte has fallen on hard times.

Fearing he'll be unable to provide for his 8-year-old daughter, he considers having his deceased wife's sister take care of her but later changes his mind.

The movie ends when a reindeer the girl discovered in the family's barn named Prancer later reunites with the other reindeer pulling Santa's sleigh after she helped nurse the deer back to health.

Hancock said he directed the film at the request of his wife, who felt it would become a classic during the Christmas season.

"It turned out to be. She was right," he said.

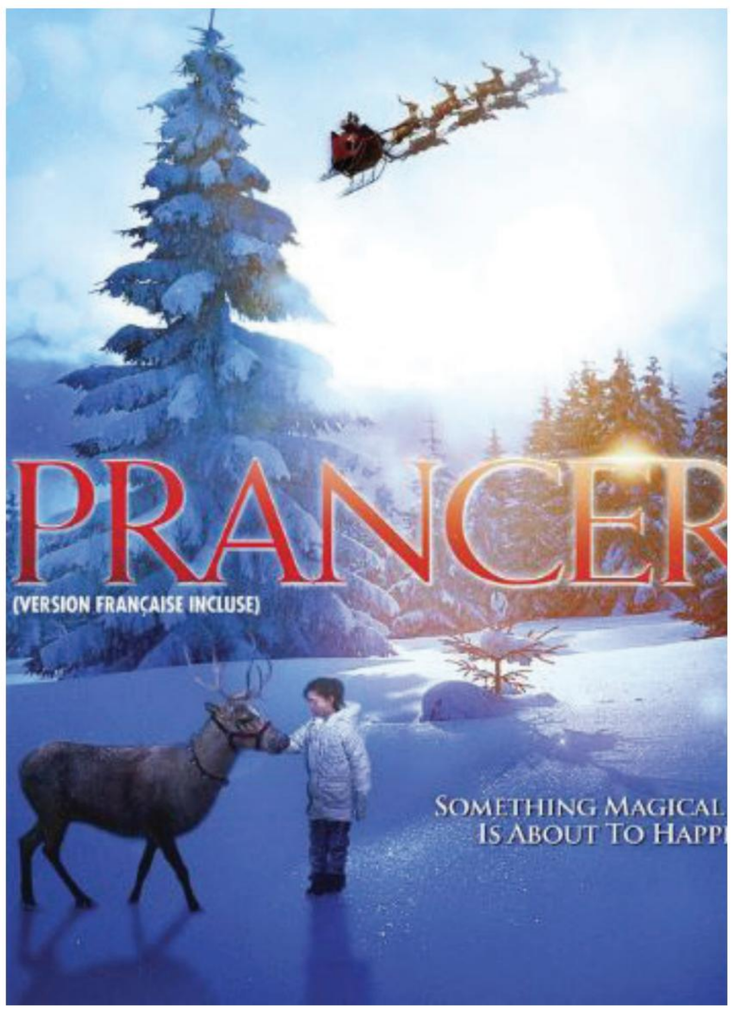
Hancock said Rebecca Harrell, who played the girl named Jessica, has committed to appearing at the celebration.

He was put on the map in Hollywood as director of the 1973 movie "Bang the Drum Slowly," which is about two baseball players becoming close after one of them is diagnosed with cancer.

After "Prancer," Hancock made several other movies in the immediate area.

He spent his childhood between the home of his parents in Chicago and their La Porte area fruit farm.

"It's such a great place to make a movie. It was a great thrill to work where I grew up," he said.



Oscar-nominated director John Hancock

Struggles on the gridiron continue for Raiders

BY STAN MADDUX

Injuries and lack of depth continue to present a challenge for the Red Arrow Raiders in eight man high school football.

The Raiders, which consist of players from New Buffalo and River Valley high schools, dropped to 1-3 on the season in a 68-28 loss at Marcellus Friday, Sept. 20.

Marcellus jumped out to a 14-0 first quarter lead.

However, the Raiders came alive on offense and, basically, traded touchdowns with Marcellus, who went into halftime leading 40-22.

One of the injured players, David Nicely, returned for the first half but was unable to finish the game.

Nicely, who hyperextended a knee during the season opener against Bloomingdale, is a difference maker on the offensive and defensively lines.

Without him helping to protect the quarterback and create holes for running backs, Johnson said he switched to modified offense in the second half to try and compensate.

Suddenly, moving the chains became much more difficult since Nicely is tough to replace, especially with players mostly a bit short on size and lacking experience on the bench.

"It was a battle. It was a struggle," he said.

On offense, Marcellus relied on their running game, which often gained yards in chunks with help from holes created by their good-sized offensive line.

Johnson said many of his defenders were slow to fill the gaps because they're still learning how to read plays and react in a more timely fashion.

He said many of his defensive players are also not quite up to speed on becoming more aggressive to make up for what they lack in size with things like tackling.

"Our physicality isn't quite where it needs to be," he said.

Quarterback Ethan Lijewski threw for 287 yards and ran for another 43 yards on 18 attempts.

M'Nason Smothers had three catches for 92 yards and two touchdowns.

Adam Slavens gained 90 yards on two catches, including one where he reached the end zone.

Kyran Hollis had four catches for 59 yards while Lucas Forker caught two passes for 46 yards.

Key players like senior Vaughn Nikkel, who was expected to be a major contributor on defense, along with sophomore Keith Forst, are both out for the year with injuries that happened prior to the start of the season.

Johnson said the replacement players are working hard to overcome their lack of game experience coming into the season.

"They got to become experienced and they got to play like a starter a lot quicker than they are right now," he said.

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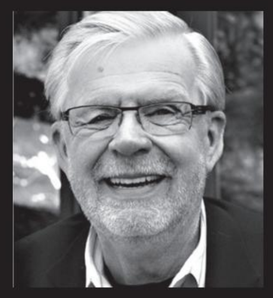
SPORTS

From the Bleachers



COLUMN BY KURT MARGGRAF IN CHICAGO

The Bears/Colts game ended with another Bears loss, and for a few minutes, I was devastated.

Then, I realized it's only a game, and my rage lessened to the point of only being angry. I tried to be an adult, and my anger began to dissipate.

The day moved along, and I realized I was moping around the house and that my anger had turned to sadness. When I began writing this column, my thoughts were turning to all the little things that could go our way next week when the Bears beat the Rams.

My gosh, the emotions one must go through to be a professional sports fan in Chicago.

Let's start with baseball. The White Sox lost their 120th game of the season Sunday. That is tied with the most ever for a Major League Baseball team. They have six games remaining and if they lose just one more, they will officially become the worst team in the history of baseball.

On the other side of town, the Cubs won their 80th game. If this team wins only one of their remaining six games, they will end up with the exact number of wins as losses. The middle of the pack. Completely average.

Let's move to basketball.

The Bulls are trying desperately to trade their best player, but nobody wants him because his salary is too high. As soon as they get rid of him, they will seriously embrace a rebuild so that three to five years from then, if they do everything right, they can start to get back in the playoff hunt.

The Blackhawks have been in the wasteland for a few years now. They, however, did some good drafting, and got lucky enough to land a future superstar. They had a plan, worked the plan, and in a couple of years, they could be really good.

The Bears are next. I couldn't have been more convinced that the Bears were ready to contend this year. All signs pointed toward the Bears making the playoffs this year and contending for the Super Bowl next year and for the foreseeable future. They drafted well, signed free agents and had a perfect preseason. Everything was coming up roses.

Then, the regular season started and the offense went away. The line seemed incapable of blocking anyone, the receivers couldn't get open, the running backs seemed less than mediocre, and the quarterback played like a rookie. After three games, the Bears are lucky to have one win.

So, what's a sports fan to do?

Give up on every team, "boo" them, and tell them how bad they are?

Not this fan. Miracles do happen. Come on teams, play hard and maybe the ball will start bouncing your way. When it does, victory will be so sweet.

Todd Rundgren sang, "Prayin' for it all day and fightin' for it all night, Give us just one victory, it will be all right."

Be kind. Talk to you next week. Peace, love, and happiness.

988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE

Members of the New Buffalo High School girls volleyball team celebrate their tournament championship

New Buffalo volleyball brings home first place tournament trophy

BY STAN MADDUX

The New Buffalo High School girls' volleyball team brought home a tournament championship after finishing two previous tourneys in second place.

The Lady Bison defeated Berrien Springs 25-23 and 25-19 in the championship match Saturday, Sept. 21, at Bridgman.

New Buffalo (14-5-3) was led on offense by Benita Puskinigus, who had 21 kills at the net and 18 aces on the serve throughout the tournament.

Riley Tertel had 14 kills and 21 aces to go with 58 assists as the team's setter.

Cassidy Saunders made a significant contribution on offense and defense with 21 kills, 10 aces and 52 digs.

Meagan Fatter also came up big on defense with 49 digs to along with seven aces on the serve.

Head Coach Bruce Molineaux said the team with nearly every player learning new positions because of the unexpected losses of two key starters from last year's squad continues to progress a bit faster than he originally expected.

"We're getting better and that's what you want to do as the season goes on," he said.

During the tournament, Molineaux said there was improved play from the already solid defense while the offense continued to make fewer mistakes.

The team also continued to serve well.

Molineaux also said the team keeps making up for lack of height at the net with accurate returns to keep the ball in play until an opportunity presents itself to score.

"Our hitters, they don't super pound the ball but they kept it in, moved it around and kept the other team off balance," he said.

Molineaux said he's very pleased and no longer surprised at how well the team is performing because the season is slightly half way over and they keep proving themselves.

"The team has pretty much got its identity right now and hopefully we can continue that," he said.

Leading up to the champion game, the Lady Bison defeated Howardville Christian, White Pigeon, Muskegon Heights and Bridgman.

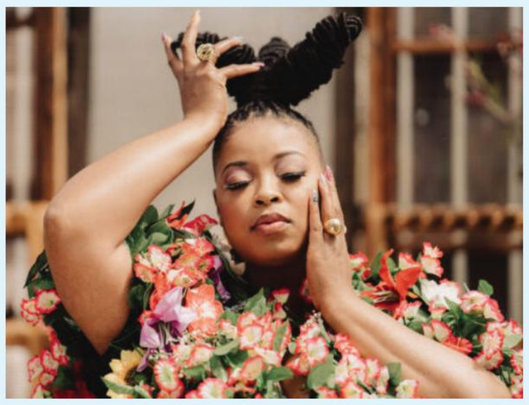
The team also split two set matches with Cassopolis and Berrien Springs prior to the finals.

Josie Humphrey recorded 19 kills and eight aces during the tourney.

Other major contributors included Nicky Durham, who had 17 kills and six aces, and Nicole Semmenchuck and Angela Tierney with 22 digs and 17 digs respectively.

Molineaux said he's anxious to see how the team performs against who he feels will be the biggest test, Our Lady of the Lake Catholic.

OLLC has only one loss this season and that was to No. 5 ranked Mendon.



NEIGHBOR BY NEIGHBOR FALL FUNDRAISER TO FEATURE MEAGAN MCNEAL

Visitors to The Acorn Center for the Performing Arts are invited to get up, dance and 'Do It With Love' to benefit Neighbor by Neighbor at 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 5.

Returning this year will be powerhouse singer/songwriter and recording artist Meagan McNeal, who will rock the house once again to help our neighbors in need.

Guests can join their neighbors at The Acorn, which is located at 107 Generation Drive in Three Oaks, for a special evening supporting Neighbor by Neighbor. The nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization in Harbor Country works to address food insecurities, homelessness and the dire needs of the vulnerable seniors in our community.

— STAFF REPORTS

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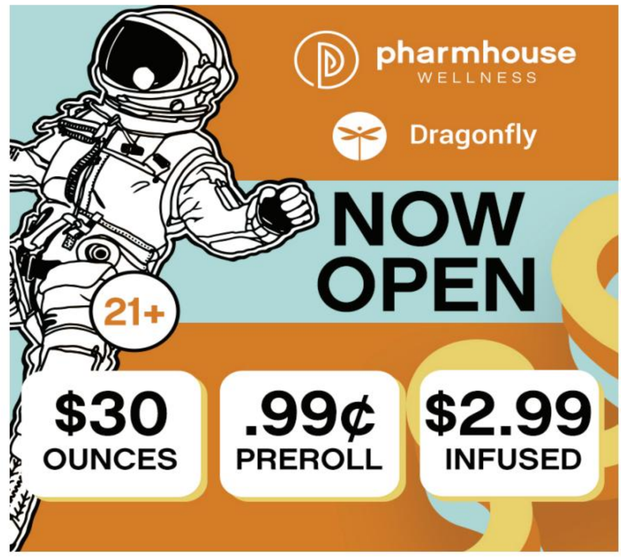

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Posted video of attack helps nab

BY STAN MADDUX

A video posted on social media of a man getting beaten and robbed in Michigan City helped lead to the filing of charges in the case.

Christopher Carey and Drake Worland, both 20, along with Frank Thompson are each facing level 3 felony robbery and level 6 felony criminal organization activity counts in La Porte Superior Court 1.

Carey and Thompson are also charged with battery and criminal mischief, both Class A misdemeanors.

According to court documents, the male victim was at Pullman Park along U.S. 12 on the city's west side on August 16 when knocked to the ground by a punch to the head thrown by Thompson.

He was then punched numerous other times and stomped on.

Police said the victim's cell phone was also taken.

Using his phone, four transfers totaling just over $600 were made from the victim's cash app account to Thompson's cash app account, police said.

The money was withdrawn by forcing the victim to provide his passcodes.

According to court documents, Worland filmed the beating which somehow wound up on a Snap Chat page.

Included with the video was a message strand from one of the suspects stating "we robbed him for everything in his pockets and cashapp, jumped him and took his phone," according to court documents.

Apparently, the suspects thought what happened was very funny judging by the sentence ending with Lmao.

According to investigators, all three defendants were named as possible suspects in the investigation of a man tipped over in a porta-potty in Michigan City just a few days prior to the attack.

Each suspect from Michigan City could face anywhere from a 3 to 16 year sentence on the most serious robbery charge.

A Day in the Life

CRAZIER THAN A HOOT OWL?

BY LAWRENCE VON EBELER

Dreams come and go.

Some don't go so easily; however, they are comfortable and even inspiring. Some are nightmares, not so comfortable and even debilitating.

Nearly every night, I have both of these dreams. I am uncertain as to what causes this phenomenon, with some dreams being ethereal and wonderful and others being frightening, or "nightmares."

Add to that a very real scene for me: "sleep walking," when I do various tasks around the house. Some tasks, which involve me not doing much in the way of anything significant, are innocent. Others have me deeply involved. One task may be gratifying, while others may be scary and counter productive.

Recently, I had a problem with my HVAC and called the nice repairman to come and repair it. He found it as perplexing - "mind boggling" would be more accurate - as I had. There was no explanation for the bizarre arrangement of the wires, which he rewired once to their correct positions, that he found. A couple of weeks passed and the AC again stopped. I called him again to come and repair the air conditioning. After once again inspecting the air conditioning wiring, he found everything was in a mess. Without any other explanation, he had to conclude that it appeared someone had deliberately rearranged the wiring that caused the failure. Upon hearing of this phenomena, my brother accused me of possibly walking in my sleep and messing with the wiring again.

It is beyond me why it might have been my fault. My physical therapist failed to offer any other explanation.

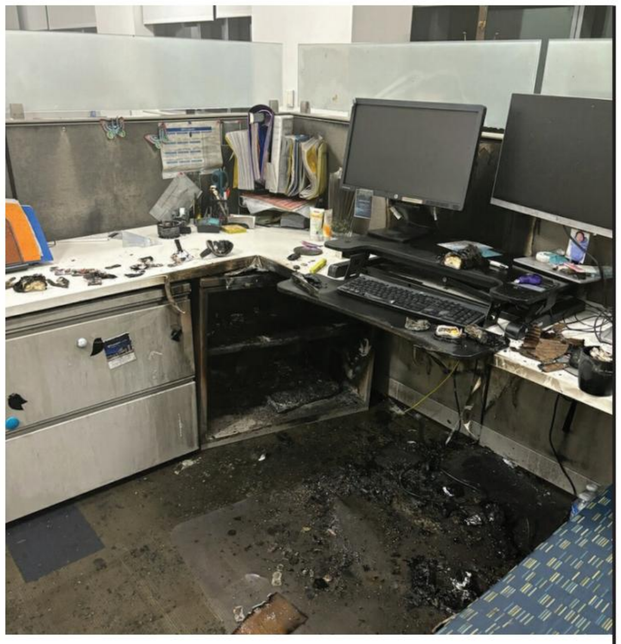
My sleepwalking is legendary. After setting the table for a family breakfast gathering, I woke up and realized I had set the table for no one visiting and had, once again, been sleep walking. I pretend that could not be the case. It's never pleasant to acknowledge being a little daft!

Often, I wake up in the morning, while talking to my friends and family. It takes me several minutes to become fully awake, while I'm still chatting to them and asking if I can get them coffee. It's when they don't answer that I wake up. Weird! I am relieved when I do awaken and it's amazing to me that it was all a dream.

I am not by nature a superstitious person; however, this scene tends to make me become that way.

Am I awake now? Isn't this a fun little vignette?

On top of being nuts, I think I'm addicted not to drugs, but to candy (let no weirdness go unsaid here). When I go grocery shopping for my weekly groceries, I buy four bags of mint patties! That's upwards of 20 paddies a bag. Furthermore, they make me choke and cough before I can make myself stop eating them. It's sick, I know. In a way, I feel like I'm lucky to still have something I am this crazy about - at least I have an appetite!



Franciscan Hospital has morning fire scare

BY STAN MADDUX

There could be a disruption in services at the hospital just outside Michigan City following an early morning fire Wednesday, Sept. 25.

Fortunately, no patients were impacted and damage wasn't enough to close the hospital known as Franciscan Health in the area of U.S. 421 and Interstate 94.

"We ask for patience and understanding as some outpatient appointments or procedures may be rescheduled or transferred to other Franciscan locations as we continue to assess the situation and clean up," said Dean Mazzoni, president and CEO of Franciscan Health Michigan City.

Just after 5 a.m., Michigan City firefighters were first to arrive and later assisted by members of the Coolspring Township Volunteer Fire Department.

Coolspring Township Assistant Fire Chief Warren Smith said the fire was out in about 10 to 15 minutes with help from an automatic overhead sprinkler system.

Smith said a desk with a surface made of wood caught fire in an office on the 5th floor on the east side of the building.

Mazzoni said that area of the hospital is an administrative area of the outpatient tower.

The flames spread to other furnishings like a metal filing cabinet and chair.

Smith said extinguishers were used to put out the flames but not until water gushing from the sprinkler heads ran down to the fourth and third floors where some of the ceiling tiles absorbing the moisture were sagging

"Those sprinklers can put out a lot of water," he said.

Mazzoni described the smoke and water damage to the outpatient tower as "significant."

No structure damage was reported.

Smith said the cause of the fire is not yet known but it could be electrical since there were computers and other electrical devices on and near the desk.

Despite the hospital being outside the city limits in Coolspring Township, Smith said Michigan City firefighters also respond to calls from the hospital since they can get there quicker from being a full-time, constantly manned department.

Smith said the faster response made a difference in limiting the damage.

"They're probably there 15 minutes before we can get there," he said.

Mazzoni said no patients were injured or evacuated as a result of the fire.

PUBLIC NOTICES

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
IN AND FOR SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA

Case No.: 2023-DR-007251 SC

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF

L.M.F.

Adoptee(s).
_____/

NOTICE OF ACTION FOR TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS AND ADOPTION BY RELATIVE WITH THE THIRD DEGREE OF CONSANGUINITY

TO: *{name of Respondent}*: AMBER STARR HILLHOUSE
{Respondent's last known address}: 7806 Stevensville Baroda Road, Baroda, MI 49101

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that a Joint Petition for Termination of Parental Rights and Adoption by Relative has been filed against you and that you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on *{name of Petitioners}* Mitchell Snyder and Penny Snyder, whose address is 386 Eden Drive, Engelwood, FL 34223 on or before *{date}* **October 28, 2024** and file the original with the clerk of this Court at *{clerk's address}* Sarasota County Courthouse, South County ATTN: Family Division, 4004 S Tamiami Trail, Venice, FL 34293, before service on Petitioners or immediately thereafter. **If you fail to do so, a default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the petition.**

The minor child is identified as follows:

Name	Date of Birth	Place of Birth
L.M.F.	03/02/2009	St. Joseph, MI

Physical Description of Respondent:

Age:	approx. 45
Race:	Caucasian
Hair Color:	Blonde
Eye Color:	Blue
Approximate Height:	5'7"
Approximate Weight:	unknown

UNDER SECTION 63.089, FLORIDA STATUTES (2017), FAIULRE TO TIMELY FILE A WRITTEN RESPONSE TO THIS NOTICE AND THE PETITION WITH THE COURT AND TO APPEAR IN THIS CAUSE CONSTITUTES GROUNDS UPON WHICH THE COURT SHALL END ANY PARENTAL RIGHTS YOU MAY HAVE OR ASSERT REGARDING THE CHILD.

Notice of Action for Termination of Parental Rights and Relative Adoption

Copies of all court documents in this case, including orders, are available at the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office. You may review these documents upon request.

You must keep the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office notified of your current address. (You may file Designation of Current Mailing and E-Mail Address, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915.) Future papers in this lawsuit will be mailed or e-mailed to the addresses on record at the clerk's office.

Dated: _____

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

By:
_____
{Deputy Clerk}

OBITUARIES

Walter Jerome Sedlacek
1931-2024

Walter Jerome Sedlacek, Jr., 93, of Harbert and Fort Myers, Florida, died peacefully, Thursday, September 19, 2024, in the presence of his family.

His life began September 2, 1931, in Chicago, Illinois, the eldest of three children born to Walter Jerome Sedlacek, Sr. and Mae Pavelek. He married Catharine Marie Carraro November 9, 1963 in Cicero, Illinois.

Walter loved to travel, spend time in Florida, and grew up most of his life coming to Michigan to enjoy the beach. In the 1970's, he had the shell of a home built in Michigan and spent weekends finishing the home, while teaching his kids how to complete DIY projects.

A love for learning led Walter to teaching science, spending his entire career in education ultimately retiring as Assistant Superintendent in Woodridge. In retirement, he continued teaching and sharing his knowledge through volunteer activities, including nearly twenty-five years as a guide at the Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve in Florida. There he taught visitors, including his grandchildren, about the flora and native animals.

Walter will be greatly missed by family and friends. He is survived by his beloved wife of sixty-one years, Catharine Sedlacek of Harbert and Fort Myers, Florida; one daughter, Ellen (David) Duffy, Carol Stream, Illinois; two sons, Walter (Robin) Sedlacek, III of West Chicago, Illinois, Brent (Christine) Sedlacek of Harbert; nine grandchildren, Jennifer, Walter IV "Jake", Jonathon, Nick, Michael, Evan, Makenzie, Nathan, Quynh; and a host of extended relatives.

He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, Melvin and Jerome Sedlacek.

Please contact the family for details on the upcoming visitation and service.

Walter will be laid to rest in Lakeside Cemetery.

The family prefers contributions in memory of Walter be made to The National American Legion, Post Office Box 1055, Indianapolis, Indiana 46206 or at mylegion.org and to Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve, 7791 Penzance Boulevard, Fort Myers, Florida 33966 or at www.sloughpreserve.org.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Pobocik Chapel, Three Oaks. Please share a memory or a message online at www.wagnercares.com.

HOROSCOPE

SEPTEMBER 26-OCTOBER 2, 2024

AS INTERPRETED BY SANDY "STAR" BENDT

ARIES MARCH 21—APRIL 19

You are setting some pretty high standards for coworkers and friends this week, and it may be difficult for them to do a good job if you keep hounding them. Try to go easy on the perfectionism and let the little things slide, so you can keep the stress levels to a minimum.

TAURUS APRIL 20—MAY 20

You'd like to see a big change occur this week with partners or people that you rely on for sustenance or resources. Unfortunately for them, you will have a strong sixth sense about where they are and how they feel about your ideas, and there will be no faking it with you this week.

GEMINI MAY 21—JUNE 21

Be cautious with parents or authority figures this week. You will have a strong need for independence and will not tolerate being told how to live or how to handle your affairs. Rather than move out or have a huge fight go out with friends and enjoy time with them.

CANCER JUNE 22—JULY 22

You can be very persuasive when the situation calls for it and can generally get what you want from others. This week be cautious you don't manipulate or take things you know others really want or need. This is the time to be generous and let others have the larger portions.

LEO JULY 23—AUGUST 22

Social trends will spark an unusual response from you, and you just might cause a stir with some of your more forward ideas. The problem isn't that you're competitive, it's that you are focusing solely on the physical side of things and missing the true value of people and situations.

VIRGO AUGUST 23—SEPTEMBER 22

Good week for Virgo! You will be more confident, energetic and much more optimistic. It will be easy to use this vibe to increase your finances and career but you would do better using it to help others. Try to be there emotionally, rather than just being there financially.

LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23—OCTOBER 22

This is a great time to contemplate and strategize, and you'd be wise to keep things to yourself. You are beating to a different drum right now and your ideas are in their infantile. So, keep things hidden or on the down low, until they are more stable and have taken a more definite shape.

SCORPIO OCTOBER 23—NOVEMBER 21

You'd like to reach out to old friends and take the lead in smoothing things over, but you may not be seeing things as clearly as you need to. You fear they need some mothering, and you might grow impatient with them if they don't accept your help or follow your advice.

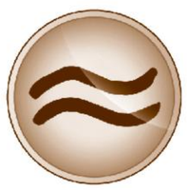
SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22—DECEMBER 21

Even though you have an orderly and idealized sense of home, you tend toward the nomadic this week. This is your week to travel to unusual destinations, where you can explore and be on your own. It seems like those are the times we meet kindred spirits.

CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22—JANUARY 19

People are going to throw you for one strange loop this week. You will be trying to understand people's motives and reasons, when there may not be anything to understand. That's just how they are. Does a bear explain he is brown? No, he's just brown, that's just the way he is.

AQUARIUS JANUARY 20—FEBRUARY 18



Generally, you can motivate yourself and can pat your own back, but sometimes it's nice to get reassurance from others. Add structure to your ideas by brainstorming with friends or siblings, and get emotional support from trusted sources, not social media.

PISCES FEBRUARY 19—MARCH 20

Quarrelsome relationships need not get you down this week. Do not give up private information to end arguments or shut people up. Hold your ground and keep things to yourself. If you refuse to engage and argue, then they can't beat you down with negative talk or disruptive behavior.

Creativity takes courage. *— Henry Matisse*

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Sudoku

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			2	4		9		
2					6			
	7		5		3			
6		7	4		9		5	
8	4			2			6	
	9			6		3	8	
			7					5
		6					4	

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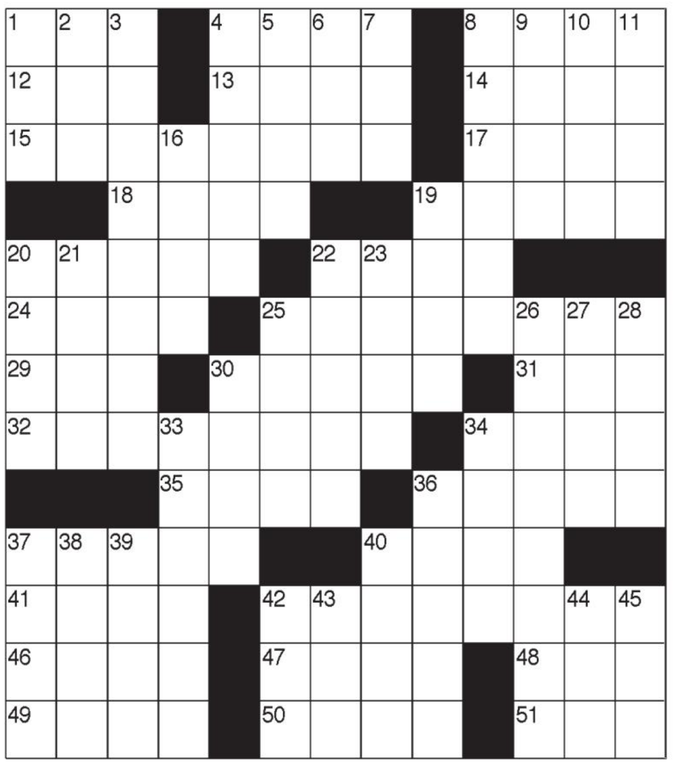
ACROSS

1 Male cat
4 Bull (pref.)
8 Babist
12 Jamaican dance music
13 Ironwood
14 Equal (Fr.)
15 Caucasian carpet
17 Son of Loki
18 Cornmeal
19 Papal court
20 Oily ketone
22 Parent of Seth
24 House (Sp.)
25 Jay (2 words)
29 Presidential nickname
30 Father of Rachel
31 No (Scot.)
32 Of the bank of a river
34 Chin. dynasty
35 Above
36 Fr. historical provinces
37 Seed
40 Bright-colored fish
41 Alb (arch.)
42 Sweet red wine
46 Cheese
47 Agnomen
48 Comparative (suf.)
49 Galway Bay isles
50 Above (Ger.)
51 Amer. Basketball Assn. (abbr.)

DOWN

1 Tongue-clicking sound
2 S.A. tuber
3 Monkey
4 Cup (Fr.)
5 Proceedings
6 Diminutive (suf.)
7 Kidney (pref.)
8 Stupefy
9 Culture medium
10 Adriatic seaport
11 Lower intestine
16 Sayings (suf.)
19 Basse-Normandie city
20 Adjective-forming (suf.)
21 Noted physicist
22 Brit. saint
23 Double
25 Pressure (pref.)
26 Emblem
27 Teem
28 Mound of sand
30 Gait
33 Soup vessel
34 Blue Nile source lake
36 Scot. court officer
37 Textile fiber
38 Vibratory sound
39 Fetish
40 Era
42 S.A. herb
43 Science class
44 Afr. cotton garment
45 Age



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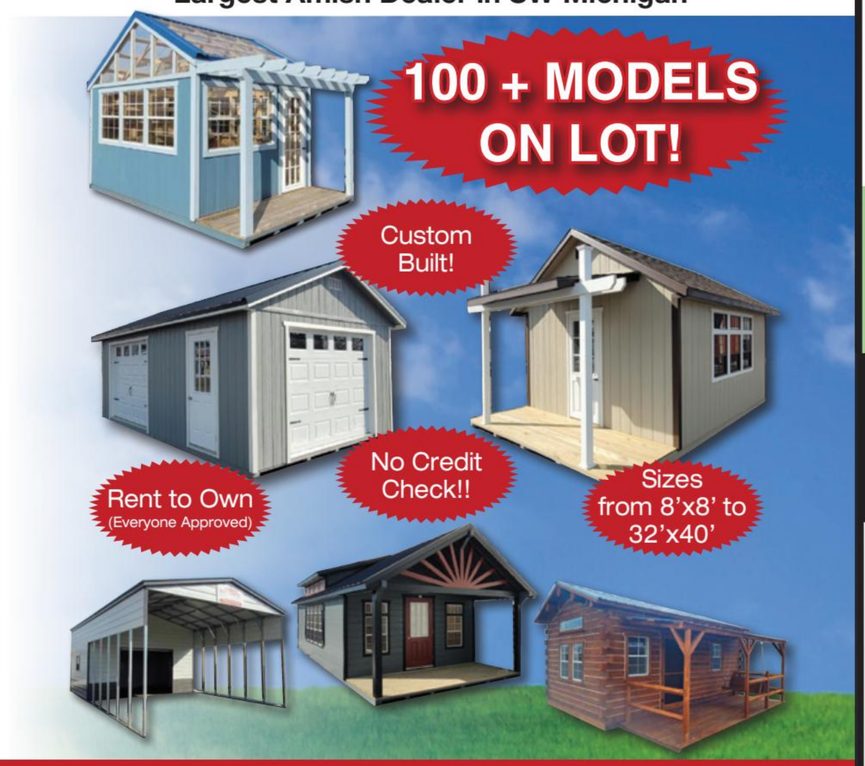

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La Porte County imposes open burning ban

BY STAN MADDUX

There's a ban on open burning in La Porte County in response to concerns by farmers about the potential for their tinder dry crops from lack of rain catching fire.

The ban went into effect Sept. 18.

A few days later, the area received anywhere from less than one inch to more than two inches of weekend rain but it wasn't enough to provide long term relief from the drought like conditions, said Cass-Clinton Fire Chief Jeff Mitzner.

Mitzner, who raises livestock along with corn and soybeans to feed his animals in the Wanatah area, is asking the public to take the open burning ban seriously.

He said a spark from a bad bearing on a combine while harvesting or even a lit cigarette butt flicked out of a car window could lead to a major farm field or brush fire in conditions he hasn't seen this dry in about 20 years.

On Thursday, Sept. 19, his department was called to put out a grass fire in the median of U.S. 30.

The flames, which apparently started from a lit cigarette butt, spread for about 400 feet before being extinguished.

"A 10 mile an hour wind would spread a field fire pretty very fast right now because of the dryness," he said.

The open burning ban is in effect until Oct. 2; however, it could be extended if the drought like conditions don't improve.

"It's going to take more than just one rainfall to get us back to where we need to be," said La Porte County Commissioner Joe Haney.

Mitzner agreed.

"The ground is going to suck up the water so fast it will not even know that it rained," he said.

The safety of farmers during harvest also could be more at risk unless there's a major let up in the very dry conditions

Mitzner said harvesting from dust created by the cutting and shredding combines do to separate corn and soybeans from the plants always carries some degree of fire risk to farmers and their fields.

Typically, only the machines catch fire when a spark ignites the tiny airborne organic particles.

This year, Mitzner said he expects the clouds of plant material to be heavier and much drier, increasing the risk of a flash-like fire that a farmer could get swept up in before having a chance to jump off the harvesting machine.

"That's how dry it is," he said.

He advised farmers to pay special attention this harvest season for any sparks flying off their combines so they can respond quicker to any help they might need.

Matt Schafer, a corn and soybean grower from LaCrosse, said corn and soybean plants are also dying ahead of schedule from having to consume what little water is left at a faster pace to try and complete filling out their ears and pods.

He said many of the stalks are becoming so dry they're at risk of toppling over in the fields.

Fallen corn plants result in yield losses because they're more difficult for combines to pick up off the ground.

"The stand ability of this corn is not going to be great. So, you might see guys out there picking kind of early trying to get it before maybe it goes down on its own," Schafer said.

PET OF THE WEEK

POOKIE

Pookie is an adult female pit bull/terrier mix, and she loves to snuggle on laps. She loves to have fun and play, and chasing tennis balls is a great way to pass the time. At just under 60 pounds, Pookie loves being around other people and interacting before play, especially for treats. She is spayed, and her vaccinations are up-to-date. Pookie is child friendly, selective about other dogs, and not a fan of cats. She likes to be in charge, so if your dog is more on the submissive side, they could be great together.

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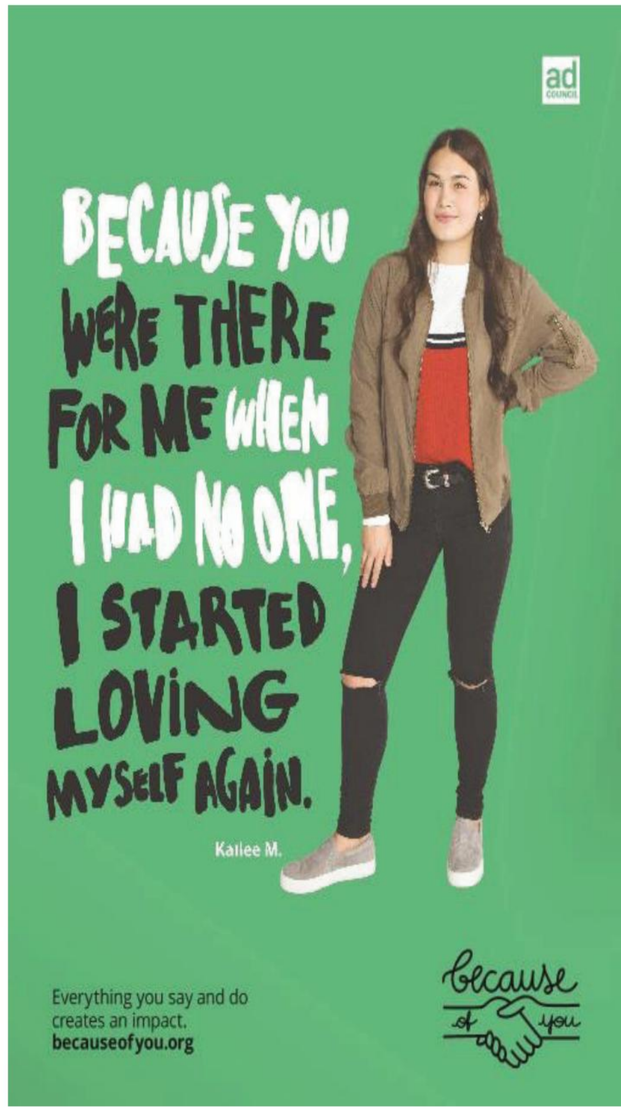
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Sunflower Fair breaks attendance record

BY STAN MADDUX

There was a record turnout for the 25th annual Sunflower Fair in La Porte.

Traditionally, the event has drawn good sized crowds; however, it didn't hurt to have 80-degree temperatures and sunny skies this year for the Saturday event, which was from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

There were 130 antique vehicles on display to go with over 20 food vendors and 160 artisan and information vendors, which were set up on both sides of Michigan Avenue south of Lincolnway and intersecting streets, said Brett Binversie, the city's special events coordinator.

Other features included several carnival rides and games for children.

Binversie said the estimated attendance was 12,000 or nearly 2,000 above last year's previous record turnout.

Mayor Tom Dermody said he was amazed at the amount of people walking up and down the several block-stretch of Michigan Avenue, which was closed for the event.

"Where else do you see this? I don't know. Where else would you want to be," he said.

Thomas Matz of La Porte said his 2-year-old daughter, Avalyn, especially liked the bounce houses and carnival rides for the younger children.

She started nibbling on a "confetti cookie" that was purchased from one of the vendors after finishing a bubble gum flavored popsicle.

"She picked it out herself. She seems to be enjoying it a lot," he said.

Matz said he especially likes the quality of time the Sunflower Fair provides for him to spend with his family.

"We come every year," he said.

The antique vehicles included a brand new looking red 1956 Ford F-100 pick-up truck, which was owned by Dan Combs of La Porte.

"It turns heads everywhere he goes," said his son-in-law, Jeff Michaels, also of La Porte.

Michaels also had his 1968 Oldsmobile Cutlass parked next to the truck and a 1964 Chrysler Newport owned by his father.

"It's just great to get everybody to events like this. It gives us a good excuse to get out together and cruise and have a good time," he said.

David Mills of Kingsbury brought his shiny red 1955 Chevy pick-up truck, which he purchased and restored a few years ago.

Mills said he often saw the truck through the open door of a barn on trips to Denver, Colorado, as an over the road truck driver; however, he kept getting turned down on his offers to purchase the vehicle, which has manual steering and three speed transmission.

After the man who owned it passed away, Mills said the man's son contacted him and asked if he still wanted to buy the vehicle, saying his father "would rather me have it than anybody else."

Mills said he worked 18 hours a day, seven days a week for three months on the restoration.

"It puts you back into the 1950s," he said.

Among the vendors was Sabrina Vargas, owner of "Happy Hound Barkery," which offers baked goods for dogs made with flour made of wheat, coconut, oats and almonds.

After coming out of her oven, Vargas said one of her products is dehydrated to make it crunchy while the other is allowed to remain soft for easy chewing by older dogs with bad teeth.

The flavor of her products range from cheddar and chicken parmesan to peanut butter.

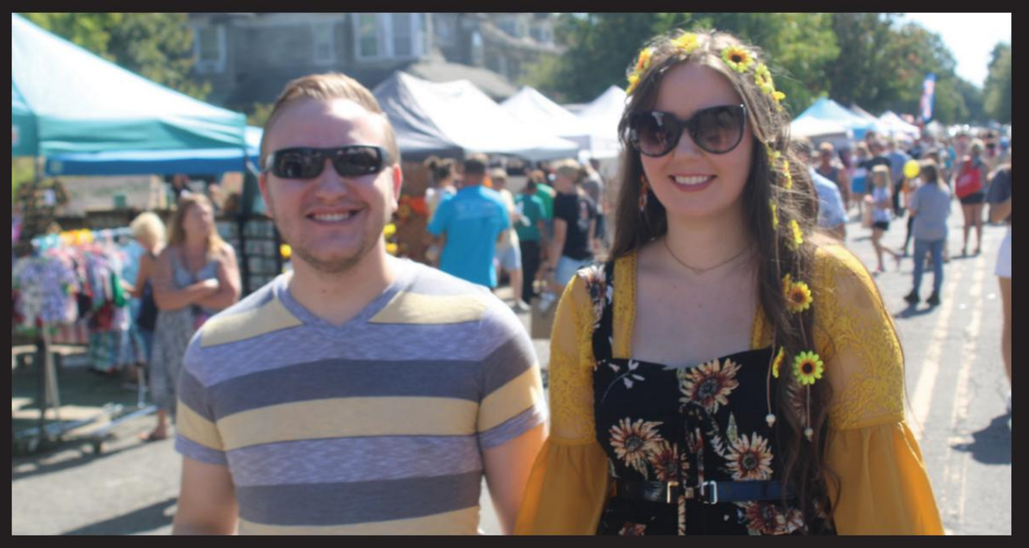
Vargas said she recently developed the preservative, dye and gluten free products for her dog to see if his allergies would clear up. After he consumed the treats, they did.

A regular vendor at the Michigan City Farmers Market every Saturday, she also offers her products online.

"We've had a really good response," she said.

Binversie credited the growth in attendance to things like name recognition over time, marketing of the event on social media and the addition of more vendors coming from as far away at Terre Haute, Ft. Wayne and Michigan.

"It's definitely a regional event now," he said.



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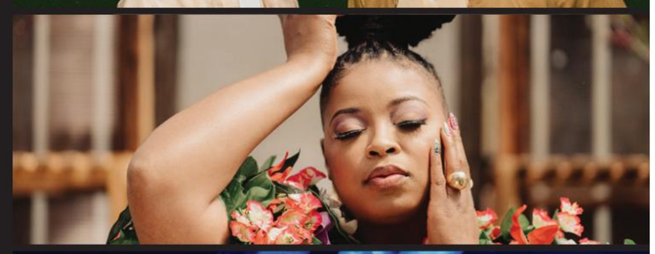

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